CLAIMS

1. A monolithic container for storing and dispensing liquid medicines, the container comprising

a lid,

a cup connected to the lid by a monolithically incorporated living hinge,

the cup having a generally tapered configuration and having a plurality of spaced-apart stepped increments on an outer surface of a side wall indicating capacities and content levels of the cup, and

a securing mechanism monolithically incorporated with the container, and releasably securing the lid and cup when at least one of the lid and cup is rotated about the living hinge and closed on the other.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the tapering is conical.

3. The container of claim 1, wherein the plurality of stepped increments are located at least partially around the outer surface of the side wall.

4. The container of claim 1, wherein the plurality of stepped increments are located completely around the outer surface of the side wall.

5. The container of claim 1, wherein the plurality of stepped increments are raised ribs.

6. The container of claim 2, wherein the plurality of stepped increments are raised ribs.

7. The container of claim 3, wherein the plurality of stepped increments are raised ribs.

8. The container of claim 1, wherein the conical tapering decreases from a top of the cup to a bottom of the cup.

9. The container of claim 1, wherein the securing mechanism includes at least one interlocking element on each of the lid and the cup.

10. The container of claim 9, wherein the interlocking elements include a recess on the lid and a flange on the cup.

11. The container of claim 9, wherein the interlocking elements include a recess on the cup and a flange on the lid.

12. The container of claim 1, wherein the lid includes a tab extending beyond an outer edge of the lid.

13. The container of claim 1, wherein the cup includes at least one indicia marked on the outer surface of the side wall, the indicia being located one of on and adjacent the stepped increments.

14. The container of claim 13, wherein the indicia indicate capacity and content levels of the cup.

15. The container of claim 1, wherein the lid includes an outer surface adapted to be markable.

16. The container of claim 1, wherein the container is made from moldable plastic.

17. The container of claim 1, wherein the container is injection molded.

18. The container of claim 1, wherein the lid is generally circular.

19. The container of claim 1, wherein the lid is shaped to match a shape of an upper part of the cup.

20. The container of claim 1, wherein the container is disposable.

21. The container of claim 1 in combination with additional containers, nested together in at least one stack.

22. The container of claim 1 in combination with additional containers, nested together in at least one stack and the at least one stack being sealed in a package.

23. The container of claim 22, wherein the package is resealable.

24. A container for storing and dispensing liquid medicines, the container comprising

a medicine cup formed to include a medicine storage chamber having an open mouth, and

a cantilevered member coupled to the medicine cup, the cantilevered member including a lid configured to mate with the medicine cup to close the open mouth and a tether arranged to interconnect the medicine cup and the lid and configured to provide a living hinge therebetween to tether the lid to the medicine cup during movement of the lid from an opened position extending laterally away from

the medicine cup to a closed position mating with the medicine cup to close the opened mouth.

25. The container of claim 24, wherein the tether is a strip of material having a first end having a first thickness appended to the medicine cup, an opposite second end having a second thickness appended to the lid, and a middle portion interconnecting the first and second ends, and the middle portion has a thickness that is thinner than the first and second thicknesses.

26. The container of claim 25, wherein the first thickness is about equal to the second thickness.

27. The container of claim 25, wherein the lid includes a round disk of material coupled to the second end of the tether and a flange coupled to the round disk and sized to extend into the open mouth of the medicine storage chamber and mate with an upper edge of the medicine cup upon movement of the lid to the closed position.

28. The container of claim 27, wherein the round disk has a thickness that is about equal to the thickness of the second end of the tether.

29. The container of claim 25, wherein the middle portion of the tether includes a first concave side edge wall arranged to extend between the first and second ends and a second concave side edge wall arranged to extend between the first and second ends and lie in spaced-apart relation to the first side wall.

30. The container of claim 24, wherein the medicine cup, tether, and lid are made of a plastics material to form a monolithic container.

31. The container of claim 24, wherein the tether is made of a pliable plastics material having a stiffness sufficient to support the lid in a horizontally extending cantilevered position upon movement of the lid to the opened position.

32. A system for storing and dispensing medicines, the system comprising

a package formed to include a cup storage region and

a series of cups nested together to form a stack and located in the cup storage region, each cup being formed to include a medicine storage chamber having

an open mouth, and wherein all but one of the cups is arranged to extend into the medicine storage chamber of an adjacent cup through the open mouth thereof.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the package includes a body formed to include the cup storage region and a cover coupled to the body to close an access opening into the cup storage region.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the cover is mated to the body for repeated movement between a first position closing the access opening and other positions opening the access opening.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the body includes a tub formed to include the cup storage region and flaps coupled to edges of the tub to provide means for retaining the cover on the tub in a position closing the access opening while the series of cups is located in the cup storage region and for allowing sliding movement of the cover relative to the tub to uncover the access opening to permit removal of at least one of the containers from the cup storage region formed in the tub through the access opening without removal of all of the containers from the cup storage region.

36. The system of claim 32, wherein the package includes a body formed to include the cup storage region, a cover, and means for coupling the cover to the body for repeated movement between a first position closing an access opening into the cup storage region and other positions opening the access opening.

37. The system of claim 32, wherein a cantilevered member is coupled to each of the cups, each cantilevered member includes a lid configured to mate with one of the cups to close the open mouth thereof and a tether arranged to interconnect the companion cup and lid to provide a living hinge therebetween and the cantilevered members are located in the cup storage region in side-by-side relation to the nested cups to form a stack of lids.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the cantilevered members are retained in spaced-apart relation to one another while the containers are located in the cup storage region owing to a stiffness property of each cantilevered member.